

# Orders, By-Laws, and Ordinances,

For the Good Government and Regulating of the Persons Licensed to Keep and Drive HACKNEY-COACHES within the Cities of London and Westminster, and the Suburbs thereof, and within all and every the Parishes and Places comprized within the Weekly-Bills of Mortality; made, published, and declared by Daniel Blake, Thomas Strickland, Edmund Clerke, Charnock Heron, and William Congreve, Esqs; Commissioners, Authorized and Appointed by His present Majesty's Commission under the Great Seal of England, for putting in Execution a late Act of Parliament, Entituled, An Act for the Licencing and Regulating Hackney-Coaches and Stage-Coaches. And allowed and approved, as by the said Act is directed, viz.

I. **IMPRIMIS**, It is ordered, constituted, and ordained, That from and after the First day of February next ensuing the date of these Presents, the Perch of every Coach shall be Ten Foot long at the least, and have Cross-Leather-Braces before, and not be braced down, but hang upon a Level, and not higher behind than before; and be decent, clean, strong, and large enough to carry Four Persons at the least, on the Penalty of Twenty Shillings.

II. **ITEM**, It is ordered, constituted, and ordained, That from and after the said First day of February, all Owners of Hackney-Coach-Licenses, Renters or Drivers of them, that shall be seen or found Standing, or Plying, or Driving within the Cities of London and Westminster, and all or any the Parishes and Places comprized within the Weekly-Bills of Mortality, without such Tin-plates, undefaced, altered, or obliterated, so coloured, figured, and placed upon the middle of the Door, on each side of every such Hackney-Coach, as was ordered by the late Commissioners, and has been since ordered by the now Commissioners to be continued, shall for every such Offence forfeit the Sum of Five Pounds, as by the said Act is directed.

III. **ITEM**, It is ordered, constituted, and ordained, That from and after the said First day of February, no Hackney-Coachman shall Stand or Ply against any part of the Royal Exchange, or the New Exchange in the Strand, or between Craggs Court over-against the Rummer Tavern by Charing-Cross, and the first Gate going into Scotland-Yard, on either side of the way; or against any the Gates of either of the Serjeant's Inns, or Inns of Court, or against the Coach-houses, Stables, or Backside of the Houses in Portugal-Row, in Lincoln's-Inn-Fields, but the said Places to remain free for Gentlemen's Coaches; and as soon as any Hackney-Coachman hath set down his Fare, he is forthwith to drive from before any of the said Places, and there to wait for his Fare, or Ply for another; and that no Hackney-Coachman shall Stand, Wait, or Ply between the East-end of St. Dunstan's Church and Temple-Bar, but only on the North-side of the Street, and not above Six at a time, and at Three Yards distance each Coach from the other, on Penalty of Ten Shillings.

IV. **ITEM**, It is ordered, constituted, and ordained, That from and after the said First day of February, if any Hackney-Coachman shall presume to Stand or Ply to be hired cross any Street, Common Passage or Alley, or within Eight Foot of the Houses, Walls, or Shops, or before the Door of any Inhabitant (to his Annoyance) within the said Cities of London and Westminster, and the Weekly-Bills of Mortality, except between St. Dunstan's Church and Temple-Bar, as aforesaid, or shall Feed his Horses in any Street or Common Passage, save only with Oats out of a Bag, or with such Hay as he shall hold or deliver with his Hand, or shall refuse to give way (if he can conveniently) to any Person of Quality or Gentleman's Coach, or shall not allow any other Hackney-Coachman to take up, drive on, or set down his Fare, or shall stand two on a breadth on the side of each other, except in the Palace-Yard Westminster; such Coachman shall forfeit for every such Offence, Ten Shillings.

V. **ITEM**, It is ordered, constituted, and ordained, That from and after the said First day of February, all Owners of Hackney-Coach-Licenses (during the Term of such Licenses) shall be accountable for all such Penalties and Forfeitures, as shall be incurred by Virtue of any Breach or Contempt of the said recited Act, or any By-Laws or Orders, made pursuant thereunto, done or committed, or suffered to be done or committed, by such Coachmen, or their Driver; such Person or Persons being first legally convicted by the said Commissioners.

VI. **ITEM**, It is ordered, constituted, and ordained, That from and after the said First day of February, every Person, who by Deed of Assignment, or otherwise, hath obtained, or shall hereafter obtain any License or Licenses, for driving a Hackney-Coach within the said Cities of London and Westminster, and the Weekly-Bills of Mortality, shall cause to be entered every such Assignment or Transferment in the Register-Books, kept by the said Commissioners for that purpose, (according to the said recited Act) within Ten days after the date of these Presents, or within Ten days after the executing every such Deed of Assignment or Transferment, made as aforesaid, upon pain to forfeit Five Shillings for every day any such Deed of Assignment or Transferment shall be neglected to be so entered. And that every Legatee of any such License, or Executor, or Administrator, to whom any such License shall come as Assits, and shall not within Sixty days after the Decease of his or her Testator or Intestate, produce before the said Commissioners the Probate of the Will, or Letters of Administration or Exemplification thereof, in order that the same may be entered in the said Commissioners Books, shall forfeit Five Shillings for every day the said Probate, or Letters of Administration, shall remain not entered as aforesaid.

VII. **ITEM**, It is ordered, constituted, and ordained, That from and after the said First day of February, no Person Licensed to keep any Hackney-Coach, shall presume to Drive such Coach with any Fare into the Country, within Ten Miles of the Cities of London and Westminster, without the Plates (whereon the Number belonging to his or her License is painted) be placed on each side of such Coach, on Penalty of Forty Shillings.

VIII. **ITEM**, It is ordered, constituted, and ordained, That from and after the said First day of February, no Hackney-Coachman so licensed, nor the Driver of such Coach, shall presume to take for his Hire for driving any Person or Persons from White-Hall, Charing-Cross, or thereabouts, to the King's Palace at Kensington, (during His Majesty's abode there) above Two Shillings, unless such Coachman shall be hired after Seven a Clock at Night, and then it shall be lawful to and for him to demand and receive Three Shillings for his Hire, and no more; but where his waiting is required, the Rate by the Hour (allowed by the Act) is to be observed. And if any Hackney-Coachman or Driver shall refuse to go at, or shall exact for his Hire more than the said Rates, he shall for every such Offence forfeit the Sum of Forty Shillings.

IX. **ITEM**, It is ordered, constituted, and ordained, That from and after the said First day of February, that any Person, who by Virtue of a License shall Drive, or Let to Hire a Hackney-Coach within the Cities of London and Westminster, and Weekly-Bills of Mortality, shall not be obliged to carry any Person in his Coach for Hire by the day, or otherwise, to any Place above Six Miles from the place he Stands in, or Plyes, between the last day of October, and the First of March, after Nine a Clock in the Morning.

X. **ITEM**, It is ordered, constituted, and ordained, That from and after the said First day of February, every Person licensed to Drive, or Let to Hire a Hackney-Coach within the Cities of London and Westminster, and Weekly-Bills of Mortality, that shall neglect or refuse, being duly summoned, to attend upon the said Commissioners, upon any Complaint made against him or her, or to give an account of the place of their Abode, without some reasonable Cause, to be approved of by the said Commissioners, shall forfeit the Sum of Ten Shillings. And every such Person aforesaid, as shall neglect or refuse to attend the said Commissioners at the place of their Sitting, upon a third Summons duly served on them, or left at the place of their Abode, or upon Oath made, cannot be found to be summoned, shall forfeit the Sum of Twenty Shillings, and shall have his License and Figure suspended from Working, or being placed upon any Coach for the space of one Month; and if in that time he doth not appear before the said Commissioners, the Commissioners may grant his said Figure to be placed upon a Coach, and drove by another Person, until he shall appear, and pay such Fine as shall be due upon his or her Conviction.

Office for Hackney-Coaches in Surry-street in the Strand, the Sixth day of December, 1697

Dan. Blake.  
Tho. Strickland.  
Edm. Clerke.  
Char. Heron.  
Will. Congreve.

We allow and Approve of the Orders, By-Laws, and Ordinances above-written, this First day of January, 1697.

Somers, C.  
J. Holt.  
Geo. Treby.